

IN THE CLAIMS

Amend the claims as follows.

Claims 1-74 (Canceled).

75. (Previously Presented) A Hepatitis C virus polynucleic acid, having a nucleotide sequence which is unique to at least one of the new HCV types 7, 9 or 11, or, to at least one of the subtypes 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g, 2e, 2f, 2g, 2h, 2i, 2k, 2l, 3g, 4k, 4l or 4m, wherein when the sequence is unique to at least subtype 1d the sequence is at least 96% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1; or the complement thereof.

76. (Currently Amended) A polynucleic acid which is selected from the group consisting of

(i) ~~the~~ a nucleotide sequences ~~having defined by~~ SEQ ID 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 15, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37, 39, 41, 43, 45, 47, 53, 55, 57, 59, 61, 63, 65, 67, 69, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, 83, 85, 87, 89, 91, 93, 95, 99, 101, 103 ~~or~~ 105,

(ii) a part of ~~said~~ a polynucleic acid of (i) which is unique to at least one of the new HCV types 7,9 or 11, or, to at least one of the subtypes 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g, 2e, 2f, 2g, 2h, 2i, 2k, 2l, 3g, 4k, 4l or 4m, wherein when the sequence is unique to at least subtype 1d the sequence is at least 96% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1, and

(iii) the complement of the polynucleic acid of (i) or (ii).

77. (Previously Presented) A polynucleic acid according to claim 75, wherein the polynucleic acid is selected from

(i) a polynucleic acid encoding an HCV polyprotein comprising in its amino acid sequence at least one of the following amino acid residues; I15, C38, V44, A49, P49, Q55, A58, D60, E68 or V68, H70, A71 or Q71 or N71, D72, H81, H101, D106, S110, L130, I134, E135, L140, S148, T150 or E150, Q153, F155, D157, G160, E165, I169, F181, T190, T192 or H192, I193, A195, S196, R197 or N197 or K197, Q199 or D199 or H199 or N199, F200 or T200, A208, I213, M216 or S216, N217 or S217 or G217 or K217, T218, I219, A222, Y223, I230, W231 or L231, H232 or A232, Q233, E235 or L235, F236 or T236, F237, L240 or M240, A242, N249, I250 or K250 or R250, A252 or C252, I255 or V255, D256 or M256, E257, E260 or K260, R261, V268, S272 or R272, I285, F290, A291, A293 or L293, T294 or A294, S295, K296 or E296, Y297 or M297, I299 or Y299, I300, S301, P316, S2646, A2648, G2649, A2650, V2652, Q2653, H2656, K2663 or Q2663, A2667 or V1667, D2677, L2681, M2686 or Q2686, A2692 or K2692, H2697, I2707, L2708 or Y2708, A2709, A2719 or M2719, F2727, T2728 or D2728, E2729, F2730 or Y2730, I2745, V2746 or E2746 or L2746 or K2746, A2748, S2749 or P2749, R2750, E2751, D2752 or N2752 or S2752 or T2752 or V2752 or I2752 or Q2752, D2753 or G2753, D2754, A2755, L2756 or Q2756, R2757, with said notation being composed of a letter representing the amino acid residue by its one-letter code, and a number representing the amino acid numbering as shown in Table 1,

(ii) a part of said polynucleic acid of (i) which is unique to at least one of the new HCV types 7, 9 or 11, or, to at least one of the subtypes 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g, 2e, 2f, 2g, 2h, 2i, 2k, 2l, 3g, 4k, 4l or 4m, wherein when the sequence is unique to at least subtype 1d the sequence is at least 96% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1,

(iii) or the complement of the polynucleic acid of (i) or (ii).

78. (Previously Presented) A polynucleic acid according to claim 75, wherein the polynucleic acid is selected from

(i) a polynucleic acid encoding an HCV polyprotein comprising in its amino acid sequences at least one amino acid sequence chosen from the group consisting of the amino acid sequences having SEQ ID 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 40, 42, 44, 46, 48, 54, 56, 58, 60, 62, 64, 66, 68, 70, 72, 74, 76, 78, 80, 82, 84, 86, 88, 90, 92, 94, 96, 100, 102, 104 or 106,

(ii) a part of said polynucleic acid of (i) which is unique to at least one of the new HCV types 7, 9 or 11, or, to at least one of the subtypes 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g, 2e, 2f, 2g, 2h, 2i, 2k, 2l, 3g, 4k, 4l or 4m, wherein when the sequence is unique to at least subtype 1d the sequence is at least 96% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1,

(iii) or the complement of the polynucleic acid of (i) or (ii).

79. (Previously Presented) A polynucleic acid according to claim 75, wherein the polynucleic acid is selected from

(i) a polynucleic acid encoding an HCV polyprotein comprising in its amino acid sequence at least one amino acid sequence chosen from the group consisting of the amino acid sequences having SEQ ID 107 to 207,

(ii) a part of said polynucleic acid of (i) which is unique to at least one of the new HCV types 7, 9 or 11, or, to at least one of the subtypes 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g, 2e, 2f, 2g, 2h, 2i, 2k, 2l, 3g, 4k, 4l or 4m, wherein when the sequence is unique to at least subtype 1d the sequence is at least 96% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1,

(iii) or the complement of the polynucleic acid of (ii) or (iii).

80. (Currently Amended) A polynucleic acid according to any one of claims 75 to 79 further comprising at least one of a HCV which comprises 5' UR nucleic acid sequence, a HCV sequences, the Core/E1 nucleic acid sequence, a HCV and the NS4 nucleic acid sequence, and a HCV or the NS5B nucleic acid sequence region or a part thereof.

81. (Previously Presented) A recombinant polypeptide encoded by a polynucleic acid according to any of claims 75 to 79, or a part thereof which is unique to at least one of the new HCV types 7, 9 or 11, or, to at least one of the subtypes 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g, 2e, 2f, 2g, 2h, 2i, 2k, 2l, 3g, 4k, 4l or 4m, wherein when the sequence is unique to at least subtype 1d the sequence is at least 96% identical to SEQ ID NO. 1.

82. (Currently Amended) A method for production of a recombinant polypeptide, comprising:

transformation of an appropriate cellular host with a recombinant vector, in which a polynucleic acid according to any one of claims 75 to 79 has been inserted under the control of the appropriate regulatory elements, the polynucleic acid thus being an insert,

culturing said transformed cellular host under conditions enabling the expression of said insert, and

harvesting said polypeptide.

83. (Currently Amended) A recombinant expression vector comprising a polynucleic acid according to any one of claims 75 to 79 operably linked to prokaryotic, eukaryotic or viral transcription and translation control elements.

84. (Previously Presented) A host cell transformed with a recombinant vector according to claim 83.

85. (Currently Amended) A peptide corresponding to an amino acid sequence encoded by one of the polynucleic acids according to any one of claims 75 to 79, with said peptide comprising an epitope which is unique to at least one of the new HCV types 7, 9 or 11, or, to at least one of the subtypes 1d, 1e, 1f, 1g, 2e, 2f, 2g, 2h, 2i, 2k, 2l, 3g, 4k, 4l or 4m, wherein when the sequence is unique to at least subtype 1d the sequence is at least 96% identical to SEQ ID NO: 1.